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Celebrity Buzz

Hayden rules out college education

pg 22

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No ban on cat, dog fur due to seal hunt: Memo

IMPORTS Blame the seal hunt if you find out you're wearing Fluffy or Rover.

The federal government won't ban imports of cat and dog fur because doing so might undermine Canada's support for the seal hunt, says a newly released document.

An internal memo shows government officials urged Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz not to follow the United States and Europe in barring cat and dog fur from entering the country.

Officials worry a ban would weaken Canada's argument against other countries closing their borders to its seal products.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

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Local pg 3

H1N1 keeps students home

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Flirting in age of technology

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Olympics Torch relay preparations

JEFF HOSKEN/METRO VANCOUVER

Bet Tuason, 54, carries the Olympic torch in Chilliwack yesterday during a dry run of the 2010 torch relay. The real thing begins at the end of next month in Victoria. Story, page 3.

Polygamy charges thrown out

Religion given priority: Activist

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Two fundamentalist religious leaders from the Interior community of Bountiful won't be tried for polygamy-related offences after a British Columbia Supreme Court judge quashed the charges.

Winston Blackmore, 52, and James Oler, 44, were investigated earlier this year on the suspicion of having more than one wife — which is illegal.

When authorities and a special prosecutor opted not to charge the men for fear of violating their religious freedoms, then-Attorney General Wally Oppal appointed a second special prosecutor to review the case.

Yesterday, Justice Sunni Stromberg-Stein said Oppal didn't have the authority to appoint a new special prosecutor, and threw out the charges.

Nancy Mereska, a retired social activist who's devoted the past six years of her life to a campaign called Stop Polygamy in Canada, said she's devastated by the decision.

"We are back to square one," she said, breaking down. "The polygamists will see this as a great victory."

Mereska said the legal system is placing greater importance on religious rights than on the rights of women and children.

"There's no freedom in polygamy," she said.

"I called Audrey Vance, with the committee in Creston to help women and children escape polygamy, and she said, 'If they suspect someone has marijuana, they (arrest them). Why is it not the same with polygamy?'

"I'm sick, I'm just sick."

Both Premier Gordon Campbell and Attorney General Mike de Jong said they are considering Stromberg-Stein's decision.

Metro still on top as readership rises in Canada

READERS The numbers are in, and we're still No. 1.

According to the latest Newspaper Audience Databank (NADbank) results released yesterday, Metro Canada has reinforced its position as the most-read free daily in the country — with Metro Vancouver leading the way.

Metro Canada now reaches 1,180,000 readers every weekday and 2,552,200 weekly readers coast to coast in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. That's more than a six per cent boost in daily readers and a six per cent increase in weekly ones from the 2008 survey.

"The Metro brand has solidified its leadership position from coast to coast," said Bill McDonald, group publisher for Metro English Canada. "Readers and advertisers alike turn to Metro first every day for information, ideas and inspiration."

In Vancouver

- Metro Vancouver ranks No. 2 in the market with readers 18 to 24.
- Metro Vancouver experienced 25 per cent growth among readers 18 to 49.
- Weekly readership rose by 14 per cent — the most of any local daily newspaper.

The NADbank results reflect last fall to this past June.

At the Metro Vancouver office, it's good news all around. Metro Vancouver led the readership percentage growth in the market, outpacing its nearest measured competitor by 3.5 times.

Publisher Maryse Lalonde, overjoyed with the results yesterday, said the findings speak to this market's increasing appetite for a quality, convenient sound-bite news format.

"This newspaper has become a daily custom for close to 41,000 new readers every day, an increase of 29 per cent since results were last released," Lalonde said.

"We value and thank each of our new and long-standing readers and commit to keep delivering news that matter to you."

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Local

Def Leppard tickets to go on sale

Tickets to Def Leppard's upcoming Vancouver show go on sale tomorrow. The former '80s hair band is performing with Cheap Trick and Man Raze at the Pacific Coliseum on Oct. 27. Left, lead singer Joe Elliott. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

BRAIDWOOD A woman concerned about Robert Dziekanski a few hours before he was shocked by an RCMP Taser and died says an immigration officer at Vancouver's airport deflected her concerns about the man. Gracie Churchill-Browne, a Spanish interpreter, told a public inquiry into his death that Dziekanski looked "tired and frustrated" and clearly couldn't speak English, but the officer she spoke to told her "he's a big boy."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOME Telus World of Science's iconic dome will soon be getting a facelift, the organization said yesterday. Eighteen illustrated murals will replace old banners.

WEATHER A record-high temperature has been set in Vancouver, news1130.com reports. The first day of fall reached 27.3 C in the city yesterday, beating the record set in 1952. The normal high for this time of year is near 18 C.

HOMES Vancouver came out in the 10th spot in an annual comparison of executive homes in more than 400 global markets. The average 2,200-square-foot "move-up" home in the downtown core is $1,262,000, according to a survey by Coldwell Banker. Toronto came in 25th, at $824,347.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Toronto police release security footage of missing 17-year-old, at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Canadian officials scrap mock battle scenes in promoting the Afghan mission on Capitol Hill, at **metronews.ca/world**

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Hope's high for 2010 Games

Practice torch relay runs through Fraser Valley to Abbotsford

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

JEFF HODSON
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One of the most anticipated events of the 2010 Olympics took a dry run through the Fraser Valley yesterday.

A practice Olympic torch relay started in Hope yesterday morning and ran, wheeled and even paddled its way east to Abbotsford.

Bet Tuason, 54, was chosen to carry the unlit torch and pretend to light the community cauldron during a mock celebration event in Chilliwack.

"Wow," said Tuason. "Exultation. It's hard to express the joy that you feel. I know it's a test, but you feel the vibe of the crowd."

Tuason is in a wheelchair and volunteers in hospitals counselling people who have suffered spinal cord injuries.

"I'm so proud of him," said May, his daughter.

"Tears were in my eyes, seeing everyone cheer around him. It makes myself and the whole family really proud of him and what this country is about to undertake."

The test run visited seven communities and even crossed the Fraser River by canoe to Seabird Island.

"For many, this will be a chance for a community to feel and sense the Olympic Games right on their doorstep," said VANOC CEO John Furlong.

Now they know...

- One of the lessons learned during the test event yesterday was the need to carry booster cables in the caravan vehicles, said Jim Richards, VANOC's director of torch relays.

Charred remains found on train tracks

DEATH A body was discovered inside a burning car yesterday morning on railway tracks in Langley.

The badly burned remains were discovered by firefighters around 1:45 a.m. inside the burning car, which was located about 200 metres down railway tracks west of 96th Avenue.

Third

- This is the third body found recently inside a burned vehicle in the Lower Mainland.

Cpl. Dale Carr, a spokesman for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, said investigators didn't have an identity, nor even the sex of the victim.

"It's completely burnt," Carr said. "The condition of the body is not readily identifiable."

He did add that the vehicle was driven down the tracks from 96th Avenue and had not been struck by a train. The CN tracks were closed most of the day and finally opened around 4 p.m., when the vehicle and body were removed on a flatbed truck.
JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A burned car is removed from train tracks in Langley yesterday.

Signs of flu keep kids at home

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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HEALTH Roughly one-third of students at Yaletown's Elsie Roy Elementary School, and others at Notre Dame Secondary School, were kept home yesterday with H1N1 flu-like symptoms.

Schools are required to contact public health officials when absentee rates hit 10 per cent, said Gavin Wilson, a spokesperson for Vancouver Coastal Health.

"At Notre Dame, my understanding is an individual has had a test done and notified the school that it is H1N1," Wilson said.

Another student at St. Patrick's School in Vancouver has also tested positive for the virus, but there's no unusual rate of absenteeism there.

"At Elsie Roy, the symptoms were consistent with the flu but very mild, so … we've ordered some tests to see if it is H1N1," said Wilson, adding that anyone with flu-like symptoms should stay home until they're feeling better.

"There's nothing different you can do if you have H1N1 than the flu," he said.

Wilson added that the best way of preventing illness is frequent handwashing.

Police want independent groups for future internal investigations

LAW RCMP and chiefs of municipal police forces in British Columbia called on the provincial government yesterday to create an independent organization to investigate shootings that involve police and serious allegations against them.

Supt. Bill McKinnon, president of the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, said such an agency would help restore public confidence in policing, which has been hurt by incidents such as the death of Robert Dziekanski, who died after being stunned by an RCMP Taser at Vancouver's airport.

"The (association) is calling for the creation of this new unit in order to build public trust and confidence," McKinnon said at a joint news conference with RCMP at the national force's headquarters in Vancouver.

McKinnon said the agency should be led by civilians and should investigate incidents of death or serious injury involving police, and serious allegations of misconduct against officers. It would "restore the public confidence in policing in the province of British Columbia."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Downtown **Balls are rolling**

STIG OLESTER GABRIELSEN/METRO VANCOUVER

Forty-nine B.C. Lotto employees take part in the "Running of the Balls" during the launch of the new Lotto Max game in downtown Vancouver yesterday. Lotto Max replaces Super 7 after 15 years and the first jackpot this Friday will be worth $10 million.

Sample taste of B.C. with Eat & Drink program

The fourth annual Eat & Drink B.C.! program launches Oct. 1 with more than 150 establishments across the province taking part. Restaurants will be providing either a three-course menu at varying price points (under $20, under $30, under $40 or $40) or a B.C. Bundle consisting of one or two uniquely B.C. items. Visit bcrfa.com for more info. METRO VANCOUVER

Olympiad to star Punjabi icon

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Organizers have added an iconic Punjabi singer, as well as performers from Uganda, Japan and Taiwan, to the Cultural Olympiad lineup for the 2010 Games to showcase the diversity of Canadian culture.

Indian heartthrob Harbhajan Singh Mann is set to lead the Bhangra celebrations at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Feb. 27.

Robert Kerr, program director for the Cultural Olympiad, said South Asian culture is part of Canada, and organizers want to bring arts from that community to the world during the Games.

"It really comes back to one of our core values and objectives of the program, and that's to showcase the full scope of all the people and the cultures that make up Canada," Kerr said.

"It'll be an amazing showcase of music out of the Bhangra scene and the classical Indian music scene."

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Kerr said other performers will include a Taiwanese dance troupe, Japanese Taiko drummers, and a group of orphaned Ugandan youth who will be doing traditional dancing and drumming.

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Mom charged in crash that killed 2 of her kids

CRIME A 36-year-old Nanaimo woman is now facing charges in a highway crash that killed two of her children just before Christmas last year.

Clare Bekkers is accused of driving drunk in relation to the incident.

It happened Dec. 22 on Highway 1 in the Cassidy area south of Nanaimo.

Police say speed and weather were factors when an SUV passed other vehicles on the inside lane, lost control and slid into the oncoming lanes, causing a seven-vehicle crash.

The crash killed two-year-old Cooper Bekkers and nine-year-old Lukas Bekkers, while two other children of Bekkers' were hurt.

Bekkers herself was only slightly injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Search begins for woman missing from cruise ship

MYSTERY A search has been launched in the waters of southeast Alaska and Canada for a 67-year-old woman reported missing from a cruise ship.

The passenger, who hasn't been identified, was noticed missing yesterday morning when she didn't leave the Sapphire Princess at the Port of Vancouver.

The Princess Cruise liner departed Ketchikan, Alaska, on Monday. The woman wasn't found during a search of the ship, and her personal belongings were in her state room.

The U.S. Coast Guard has sent a helicopter and boats to search from Ketchikan 86 miles south. Canadian officials are searching from Vancouver 800 kilometres north. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man wins $50G with Tiger Woods video

CHALLENGE Taking a cue from EA Sports' slogan "It's in the game," Paul Lowey actually put someone in Tiger Woods' video game.

The resulting 71-second video has netted the 30-year-old from Vancouver $50,000 US and invaluable exposure after winning the Tiger Woods PGA TOUR 10 Viral Video Challenge.

"I'm so proud of it," Lowey said in an interview yesterday. "I'm so proud of the team behind it ... It took a team of people to really pull off every single part of this video."

Using a green screen, Lowey filmed his "In the Game" video at a local park.

"I'm so proud of (the video). I'm so proud of the team behind it."
Paul Lowey, challenge winner

The video places a real-life fan in the game, nagging the virtual Woods to let him take a shot. The fan grows more frustrated as Woods ignores his pleas.

The video is seamless, with actor Patrick Papineau's shadow falling alongside that of the virtual Woods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FRENCH QUARTER Place de la Francophonie, a French Quarter on Granville Island during the 2010 Olympics, was officially announced yesterday. It will host a series of events and performances meant to give visitors a genuine Francophone cultural experience.

DEATH An 83-year-old man has been killed while waiting at a bus stop in what police say may have been a street-racing accident. Witnesses said two Corvettes were racing when one clipped a third vehicle and lost control. A 25-year-old driver could face charges.

LOST AND FOUND A police dog in Nanaimo is being credited for finding a woman lost in the woods after she wandered away from her friends. Lars and his handler, Cpl. Dean Muir, discovered the 45-year-old in the dense brush. Officers said the woman had been drinking.

MARINA A group of kayakers in Victoria has hired a lawyer to stop a proposed mega-yacht marina from being built in the city's busy Middle Harbour, CBC News Online reports. Critics say the site is too large and is a danger to float planes and smaller vessels.

WITNESSES Two key witnesses in a double homicide at a Richmond McDonald's have come forward to police to provide a statement, news1130.com reports. RCMP say they're still looking for another man who was at the restaurant when Yan Lin and her ex-husband were killed. A suspect has been arrested.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aggressive plant invades Canada
It's been known to snap hydro poles, swallow buildings and smother forests. Now a plant described as the vegetable form of cancer has spread north across the border into southern Ontario. Scientists believe warmer temperatures have stretched the Kudzu vine's range to Canadian soil from the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Shake off the salt, says study

Canadian food processors and restaurant chains could cut out a lot more salt and help save lives without adversely affecting the quality, shelf life or texture of their ketchup, French fries, soups and sauces, says a leading health advocacy group. Citing new research that shows salt levels vary widely among similar products, a study by the Centre for Science in the Public Interest challenges the food industry's argument that high levels of salt are needed to preserve product integrity. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

TERRORISM A Toronto man admitted yesterday to procuring weapons, arranging false travel documents and trying to recruit extremists for a domestic terrorist group that planned bloody attacks on Canadian targets. The Crown told court Ali Dirie, who pleaded guilty Monday, was close to the alleged co-leader of the so-called Toronto 18. Dirie knew the group followed an "extremist interpretation of Islam" and intended to commit terrorist acts, Crown lawyer Clyde Bond told Ontario Superior Court. Those acts were for a religious purpose and meant to "intimidate the public," Bond said.

ELECTION An internal election to replace the head of Quebec's most powerful construction union was manipulated with the help of the Hells Angels, according to a report by CBC's French-language service, CBC News Online reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Quebec **Tearful speech**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former hostage Ingrid Betancourt bursts into tears during a speech to members of the Quebec legislature after she received the medal of the National Assembly yesterday in Quebec City. Betancourt was held for almost seven years in Colombia.

Canada boycotts Iran leader's speech

PM calls Ahmadinejad's remarks 'disgraceful'

Canada protested Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's "disgraceful, insulting" declarations by boycotting his speech to the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said.

"There is no way I am going to permit any official of the government of Canada to be present and give any legitimacy to remarks by a leader like that," Harper said in Oakville, Ont.

He said Canada believes Ahmadinejad's abuse of human rights, detention of innocent people and "disgraceful, insulting" declarations about Israel and the Holocaust should be protested.

"President Ahmadinejad has said things, particularly about the state of Israel, the Jewish people and the Holocaust, that are absolutely repugnant," Harper said.

"It is unfitting that somebody like that would be giving those kinds of remarks before the United Nations General Assembly ... There are times when things are being said in this world that it is important that countries that have a moral compass stand up, make their views known and our absence there will speak volumes about how Canada feels about the declarations of President Ahmadinejad."

Harper has not addressed the UN General Assembly in three years, even though Canada is seeking a Security Council seat and he has made his displeasure with the institution known. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dugard case gives mother hope

The discovery of American Jaycee Dugard, who was found recently 18 years after being kidnapped, brings new hope, the mother of Madeleine McCann said yesterday. McCann vanished in May 2007 a few days before her fourth birthday during a family vacation on Portugal's southern coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Phillips says she had sex with famous father

Former child star Mackenzie Phillips said yesterday her father, John Phillips, a leader of the 1960s pop group the Mamas and the Papas, raped her when she was a teenager and that her sexual relationship with him later became "consensual." Phillips writes in her new book, High on Arrival, that she had sex with her father on the night before she was to get married at age 19, according to People magazine. Phillips, 49, who starred on TV's One Day at a Time, said the relationship lasted a decade and ended when she became pregnant and didn't know who had fathered the child. She had an abortion, which her father paid for. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LOS ANGELES A man already accused of killing two women and suspected in the deaths of as many as 30 more was charged yesterday with raping and murdering five other victims. John Floyd Thomas, 73, was charged with killing the women between 1975 and 1986. The women had all been strangled. Thomas will stand trial for all seven deaths simultaneously. LAPD detectives believe Thomas may be responsible for killing as many as 30 women.

SWEDEN Robbers used a helicopter yesterday in a spectacular raid of a cash depot in Stockholm, breaking into the building through the roof and flying off with bags of cash, police and witnesses said. The predawn heist stunned police in the Swedish capital, who were unable to deploy their own helicopters to the scene because of suspected explosives placed at their hangar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama challenges world leaders

Time has come for world to move in a new direction, U.S. president says

In a blunt challenge to his nation's critics, U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday exhorted world leaders who once accused the United States of acting alone to now join with him in solving global crises rather than wait for America to do it on its own.

In his first address to the UN General Assembly, Obama sought to set a new tone in U.S. relations, moving away from the unilateralism of his predecessor, George W. Bush. He coupled conciliatory words about a "new era of engagement" with a summons for other nations to shoulder more of the burden.

"Those who used to chastise America for acting alone in the world cannot now stand by and wait for America to solve the world's problems alone," Obama said.

Obama said past policies and a perception of unilateralism by the United States had fed "an almost reflexive anti-Americanism" that too often was used as an excuse for inaction.

"The time has come for the world to move in a new direction," Obama said before a UN chamber packed with more than 100 of his global counterparts.

While Obama continues to be popular around the world, he has struggled with many international issues, including the war in Afghanistan, negotiating peace between Israelis and Palestinians and winning passage of climate change legislation ahead of a global conference in December.

The speech comes one day before Obama hosts a two-day meeting of the world's major economies in Pittsburgh, where he is likely to encounter resistance to his proposals aimed at correcting global imbalances that many believe contributed to the worldwide recession.

At the UN, Obama received applause when he entered the room. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not join in the applause.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gadhafi rips UN

- In his first United Nations appearance, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi issued a slashing attack on the UN Security Council and chastised the world body yesterday for failing to intervene or prevent some 65 wars since the UN was founded in 1945.

Dog-fighting ring busted in day care

CHICAGO Blood spattered the garage of a home day care that was also the base of an alleged dog fighting ring, authorities said yesterday, describing battered and malnourished dogs and the devices used to train them found not far from where children played.

Police said four people were arrested, and felony dogfighting charges are pending against several of them, including the day care operator's husband. Nine battered dogs — four of which were puppies — were rescued, police said.

"The dogs were in horrific condition," Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said. "This is as bad as we've seen."

Dart said about 10 children were found in the day care during the raid Tuesday, but they were not in the immediate vicinity of the dogs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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School finally debt-free
Oral Roberts University, which was once tens of millions of dollars in the red after a financial scandal, is finally debt-free. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia gets its first co-ed university

Saudi Arabia inaugurated yesterday its first-ever fully integrated co-ed university, and its ruler declared the institution will be a "beacon of tolerance" in a world attacked by extremists.

The multibillion-dollar King Abdullah Science and Technology University, or KAUST, boasts state-of-the-art labs, the world's 14th fastest supercomputer and one of the biggest endowments worldwide. It breaks many of the conservative country's social taboos by allowing, for the first time, men and women to take classes together.

"Today this university will become a house of wisdom ... a beacon of tolerance."
King Abdullah

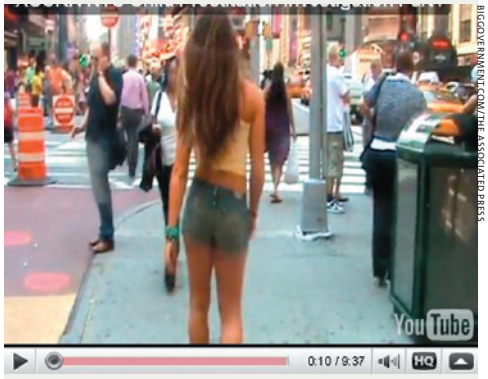
Saudi officials have envisaged the postgraduate institution as a key part of the kingdom's plans to transform itself into a global scientific hub — its latest efforts to diversify its oil-reliant economy.

"Undoubtedly, scientific centres that embrace all peoples are the first line of defence against extremists. And today this university will become a house of wisdom ... a beacon of tolerance," King Abdullah said at the inauguration.

So far 817 students representing 61 different countries are currently enrolled, with 314 beginning classes this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prostitution **Where's my money?**



BIGGOVERNMENT.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hidden-camera video shows a conservative activist posing as a prostitute in New York. In the video, she, along with an activist who poses as a pimp, talk to ACORN Housing Corporation employees who allegedly give them advice about money laundering and establishing a brothel with underage prostitutes. The videos have become a national sensation and right-wing rallying cry.

Son of Italy's last king to stand trial in corruption case

ROME A judge yesterday ordered the son of Italy's last king to stand trial in a corruption case that briefly landed the scion of the Savoy family in jail, news reports said.

Victor Emmanuel was arrested in 2006 on accusations that he recruited prostitutes for clients in a casino and trafficked in licenses for video poker machines. The charges didn't stick, and were dropped.

But prosecutors continued a parallel probe, which led to yesterday's indictment on charges of conspiracy to commit a crime and corrupting public officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

YALE MURDER A former high school girlfriend of a Yale lab technician charged with murder says her ex was extremely controlling, telling her what clothes she could and couldn't wear, where she could and couldn't go and what friends she could have. She made the confession on ABC's Good Morning America.

PARIS French President Nicolas Sarkozy says he is confident the justice system will make the right call in a case involving allegations of a smear campaign against him. Sarkozy has rarely commented about the so-called "Clearstream" case. He claims former Prime Minister Dominique Villepin was behind a smear campaign aimed at thwarting his bid for the 2007 presidential election.

MISTAKE A woman is carrying another couple's child after she says a fertility clinic implanted her with the wrong embryo. But 40-year-old Carolyn Savage says she knew right away that she would give the baby to the biological parents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Clicking with textual innuendo

Relating

Him: I had the naughtiest dream about you last night!

Her: I dreamt about ponies!

Him: I guess we both got what we wanted! ;)

Technology has made so many aspects of our lives infinitely simpler.

Count flirting among them.

As mobile technologies and social networking become increasingly prevalent, people have embarked on this Brave New World of communication by totally hitting on their friends (and the friends of friends).

Ever leave a flirtatious Facebook photo comment, "poke" a crush or fire off a suggestive 3 a.m. text after ingesting enough Jägermeister to cripple a small yak?

You're not alone. A report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project suggests 22 per cent of Facebook and MySpace users are flirting up a storm.

So why is flirting-via-technology so enticing?

"People have become extremely reliant on technology and gadgets today," says radio talk show host and flirting expert Susan McCord of beavertalk.com.

"I think it's basically due to accessibility and laziness … it's easier to just send (a text or email) than to have a long, drawn-out phone conversation."

Sociology professor and relationships expert Dr. Pepper Schwartz of the University of Washington in Seattle offers another theory:

"Low exposure and vulnerability," Schwartz explains. "(Flirting by way of technology is) a quick way to 'test the waters.' If someone doesn't respond, it's not as awkward as it would be face-to-face."

So we're all a bunch of yellow-bellied cowards. Basically.

Flirting via text and social media tools provides a safety barrier in case of rejection. We're able to explore and escalate the desires of others in a detached fashion, making it a less personal way to get personal. ("I like you as a friend" stings far less when delivered in pixels.)

Hot, hot text can also be useful for pre-existing couples. It stokes the fires of long-distance or long-term relationships and serves as an extended form of foreplay.

"We often flirt-text when we're both out for the evening," says Jackie, a young professional who lives in Toronto. "While he's out with the boys, I want him to be thinking of me, and not the short-skirted girl one table over."

Textual innuendo is just a way of letting someone know that you're looking forward to the next time you'll be in the same physical space as them … or a casual way to attempt to infiltrate someone's physical space in the first place.

(Poke.)

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

'Birthday greetings' for Saudi Arabia

GlobalView

Saudi Arabia has just turned 79. Relatively young, but old enough to know that it is morally disgraceful to treat women like children.

The country that sits on the world's largest oil reserves is the only one that denies half its population the right to drive. Saudi women cannot vote, cannot drive, cannot be treated in a hospital or travel without the written permission of a male guardian, cannot study the same things men do and are barred from certain professions.

To mark her country's birthday, Saudi women's rights activist Wajeha al-Huwaider wants you to write to women in your government and urge them to pressure the Saudi government to end the system of male guardianship of women in Saudi Arabia. Consider it a campaign to finally let Saudi women grow up.

"I do believe free people around the world can help a lot to make women's lives in Saudi Arabia better," al-Huwaider said.

She asks that you also write letters, via Saudi embassies, addressed to Saudi King Abdullah — who many Saudis believe is a reformer but whose hands are tied by conservative members of the royal family and clerics.

The guardianship system basically puts a male relative in charge of women's lives. Imagine the humiliation of an adult woman needing the permission of a man — at times much younger than her — to do the most basic of things, such as being admitted into a hospital. Almost 60 per cent of university students in Saudi Arabia are women — so it's not a question of capability.

Some women are "lucky" enough to have male relatives who do not abuse the system. Their male relatives, for example, sign a letter granting unlimited permission to travel.

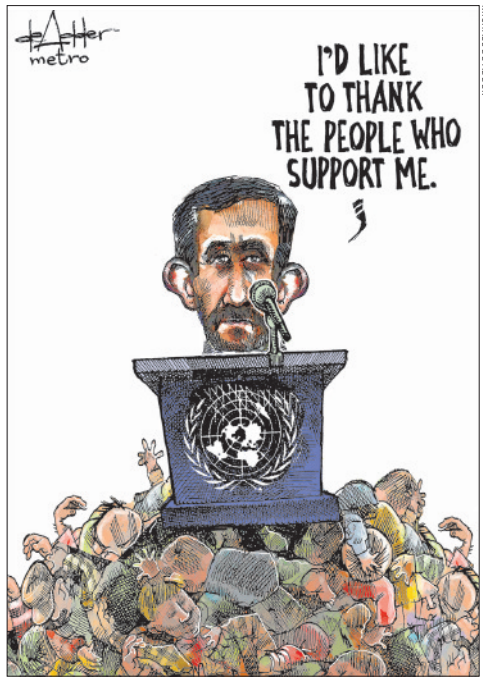
But why subject women to the whims of men and officials?

In 2008, al-Huwaider produced two video clips directly challenging Saudi Arabia's misogyny. One featured her driving as she addressed an open letter to the country's interior minister asking him to lift the ban on driving and offering to teach Saudi women how to drive.

Just look at Saudi Arabia's neighbours to see that its outrageous treatment of women has nothing to do with Islam but more with its own customs. And listen to Wajeha al-Huwaider to understand that there are Saudi women courageously fighting for their rights and who deserve our support.

Send those "birthday cards!"

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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U.S. bank slowing recovery program
With the economy on the mend, the U.S. central bank said yesterday it is slowing the pace of a program to lower mortgage rates and prop up the U.S. housing market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

EXPANSION Ford Motor Co. unveiled a made-in-India compact car as well as plans to expand production in China as it seeks to boost sales in Asia, a region the U.S. automaker has hardly dented, but on which it is counting to drive growth. The four-door "Figo," which is Italian slang for "cool," will go on sale in India during the first quarter of next year, Ford executives told a news conference yesterday. There are also plans to export the low-cost car to other Asian countries. Ford declined to reveal the Figo's sale price. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Poor divide widens

Low-income families face social exclusion: Report

The poorest Canadians are struggling to pay for life's necessities, forcing them to do without such everyday basics as eyeglasses, dental care and furniture — and the recession has only made their plight worse, says a major think-tank.

In a study released today, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives paints a disturbing picture of how the poor are unable to afford many of the goods and services most Canadians consider "reasonable for normal living" in modern society.

Entitled The Affordability Gap: Spending Differences Between Canada's Rich and Poor, the report argues that widening divide also means low-income Canadians face a greater risk of "social exclusion."

Forget cellphones, personal computers or high-speed Internet. Basic recreational activities are out of reach for most, making the poor less likely to splurge. Their children often go without sports equipment, the report said.

"The poorest 20 per cent of Canadian households live in worlds far removed from the richest 20 per cent," said Steve Kerstetter, the study's author and a research associate at the centre.

Average spending for the poorest households totalled $22,339 in 2007, while the richest 20 per cent spent about $143,361.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Business in brief

AUTO Record low North American vehicle inventories, particularly for popular Canadian-made cars, will boost production through the end of 2009 and well into 2010, according to Scotia Economics.

Auto industry analyst Carlos Gomes said strong U.S. vehicle sales in August, boosted by the government's Cash for Clunkers program, have left inventories at a record-low 30 days' supply. In response, automakers are ramping up production, which had been cut back dramatically as sales slumped.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper says Tory policy helped repatriate Tim's

BUSINESS To hear Prime Minister Stephen Harper tell it, his financial policies helped repatriate the Timbit.

Harper met with Tim Hortons executives yesterday after shareholders of the multinational coffee chain voted to reorganize as a Canadian public company.

Parent company Tim Hortons Inc. announced in June it intended to shift its corporate ownership back north of the border, saying it would save on taxes and make international expansion easier.

Following his meeting in Oakville, Ont., Harper championed his tax policies, saying lower taxes are attracting business to Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BUILD-A-BASH AND WIN![1] Enter PV4B3C8 at buildabash.ca for points towards a koodo-rific party.

Forsberg attempts another comeback
Peter Forsberg is set to play for his hometown team Modo in the Swedish Elite League starting today in yet another comeback attempt. Modo has given the 36-year-old a one-week tryout contract. Forsberg can play with Modo until the NHL season begins Oct. 2 without jeopardizing a possible NHL comeback. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Cox throwing himself out

The Atlanta Braves say Bobby Cox, left, will retire as manager after the 2010 season. Cox managed the Braves from 1978-81, switched to manage the Toronto Blue Jays from 1982-85, then returned to manage Atlanta in 1990. Cox currently sits fourth on MLB's all-time managerial wins list and holds the record among coaches for most times ejected from a game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Vancouver remains perfect

NHL RESULT

San Jose 3 Vancouver 4 (SO)

Mason Raymond's shootout goal gave the Vancouver Canucks a 4-3 victory over the San Jose Sharks in NHL pre-season action last night.

Raymond also scored in regulation while Alex Edler and Tanner Glass scored the other Vancouver goals.

Benn Ferriero, Kent Huskins and Rob Blake replied for the Sharks.

The Canucks remained a perfect 6-0 in exhibition play while San Jose fell to 2-3.

Vancouver outshot San Jose 29-27. The Sharks went two-for-five on the power play while the Canucks were blanked on three attempts.

Newly acquired Sharks forward Dany Heatley did not make the trip to Vancouver.

SAM LEUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canucks' Michael Funk, 43, and Mario Bliznak, 62, battle with San Jose Sharks' Scott Nichol in front of Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo during the first period of last night's pre-season game in Vancouver.

In an interview with the San Jose Mercury-News, coach Todd McLellan said Heatley stayed behind to undergo fitness testing, which he had missed before the trade from Ottawa, and to study videos.

Vancouver's Roberto Luongo made his first save of the night sitting down after San Jose's Joe Thornton clipped him in the mask with his stick and the Canucks goaltender fell, trying to draw a penalty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Balsillie changes bid again

COYOTES Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie has pledged to keep the Phoenix Coyotes in Glendale this season if he wins an auction for the financially troubled club.

The revised offer came during an emergency hearing yesterday before bankruptcy Judge Redfield T. Baum, who called Balsillie's proposal "a fairly significant change."

Balsillie does, however, still plan to move the team to Hamilton as part of his $242.5-million US bid.

Balsillie's revised bid appeared to be a last-ditch effort to win over the city of Glendale, which sides with the NHL in the long-running courtroom battle.

The only other bid has come from the NHL, which has offered $140 million.

The league would try to resell the team to a local buyer but, failing that, would explore relocation.

Baum gave no indication when he might rule on whether to award the team to the NHL or to Balsillie. He also could reject both bids. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia's richest man to buy controlling interest in New Jersey Nets franchise

BASKETBALL Russia's richest man has a deal to buy a controlling interest in the New Jersey Nets and nearly half of a project to build a new arena in Brooklyn.

Mikhail Prokhorov

Mikhail Prokhorov's Onexim Group announced the deal yesterday with Forest City Ratner Companies and Nets Sports and Entertainment. They say they have signed a letter of intent to create a partnership for the development of the Atlantic Yards Project.

According to the agreement, entities to be formed by Onexim Group will invest $200 million US and make certain funding commitments to acquire 80 per cent of the NBA team, 45 per cent of the arena project and the right to purchase up to 20 per cent of the Atlantic Yards Development Company, which will develop the non-arena real estate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

FIBA Jordan Adams led a balanced attack with 16 points as Canada routed the Dominican Republic 103-37 in the opening game for both teams at the women's FIBA Americas basketball tournament yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LAWSUIT Former Tennessee Titans receiver David Givens claims the team failed to tell him about a defect in his knee that led to an injury and eventually ended his career. He filed a lawsuit against the club yesterday, saying club officials urged him to play despite knowing of the defect.

SOCCER Chelsea and Tottenham advanced to the last 16 of the Carling Cup with victories over second-tier opposition, while defending champion Manchester United eliminated Premier League rival Wolverhampton yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASEBALL Canada routed Venezuela 9-2 yesterday in third-round action at the Baseball World Cup. Canada is second place in the Pool 2 standings. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Metro Homes

Healthy fries?

Using a new patented technology, T-fal has come up with the solution for making fries that are much healthier. French fries cooked with ActiFry contain 70 per cent less fat than those prepared in a conventional oven. Available at The Bay in October. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Neighbourhood in the Foothills

There is still an opportunity to buy into the first neighbourhood of single-family homes within The Foothills of Burke Mountain.

The last homes in the Belmont Classics development in northeast Coquitlam are being prepared to be released by Morningstar Homes and some of them back onto the most scenic greenspace within the project. They start at $729,900.

Remaining

- Eighty-two per cent of homes have already sold — only 15 remain, including the showhomes.

In all, the new community consists of 107 homes ranging in size from 3,499 to 3,873-square-feet. They include a detached or attached garage as well as full, unfinished basements.

Suite Talk

The location is near protected natural areas that include an expansive system of trails as well as a series of parks and community amenities. Its central location also makes schools, business, shopping and recreation easily accessible. METRO VANCOUVER

A selection of photographs from the community of single-family homes within The Foothills of Burke Mountain.

Poor in budget but rich in imagination

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

The mortgage crisis may have made home owning a buyer's market, but for many cash-strapped Canadians, that dwelling of their desire simply becomes a fixer-upper that never gets fixed.

Enter Suzanne Schultz, financial planner and co-host of the new program House Poor, which premieres Monday on HGTV.

The program sees Schultz along with contractor Frank di Leo help families in need of home renovation both understand the importance of advanced financial planning and receive the overhaul they can't afford.

Those profiled also have a chance to win $10,000 to aid their financial future — $5,000 if they complete Schultz' financial challenges, like creating a budget, and an additional $5,000 if they compromise during the renovation to stay on budget.

"There are no other shows on HGTV that talk about the personal finance element of doing the renovation, and go beyond that to talk about saving money in your day-to-day household," said Schultz, who equates thrifty with trendy, due to the economic downturn.

She thinks House Poor will be popular among a cross-section of homeowners because of the variety of incomes and types of family that seem to find themselves in the same situation. Despite their differences, she said the common denominator is none of them really have a clue where they're spending their money.

"They don't track it. They just spend it and, at the end of the month, they all know there's no money left over to do the renovation, but they're not sure why. Tha"s where I come in," she said, "They're usually really surprised to find out where the money is going."

HGTV's House Poor premieres on Monday.

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Jobs & Training

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Networking helps small businesses generate sales leads, build relationships, and keep informed of emerging trends. It also helps them to gain insight into how their peers are growing their businesses. NEWS CANADA

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Skilled workers in demand

Province expects 1 million jobs over the next 10 years

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

The one million new jobs expected in British Columbia span everything from construction and carpentry to science and research.

British Columbians concerned about job security in coming years might want to consider entering the trades — a field expected to experience a substantial shortage of skilled workers in the next decade.

That's the word coming from Iain Black, minister of small business, technology and economic development, who says that while B.C. has experienced increased unemployment rates due to the economic downturn, the province still has a high demand for skilled workers.

"We expect a million net new jobs (for skilled workers) in B.C. over the next 10 years," he said. "The problem is we're only going to be graduating — from high schools, technical colleges and universities — about 800,000 people, so we are actually still facing 200,000 net job demand within the next 10 years."

These jobs span everything from more traditional positions, such as construction and carpentry, to more complex positions for university-educated scientists and researchers for the green technology economy, said Black.

He notes that the increase in these jobs will have a residual impact on other types of employment.

A report by the Canadian Occupational Projection System, titled 10-year Employment Outlook For British Columbia: COPS BC Unique Scenario, 2007-2017, projects employment demand based on historical trends, economic outlook, market intelligence and in-house research. It states that from 2007 to 2017, health care and social assistance; professional, scientific and technical services; and forestry, mining, oil and gas will experience the fastest growth in the province. Employment demand for agriculture, fishing, hunting and trapping are projected to shrink slightly.

The report also states that most jobs will require higher skills and education, with 42.6 per cent expected to require at least a college or a trade certificate and 30 per cent expected to require a university degree.

Looking forward to 2010, Black calls the Olympics "one of the biggest economic drivers" and says he believes the upcoming Winter Games — which will create about 24,000 jobs directly — will leave a lasting increase in tourism and hospitality jobs.

"I'm very optimistic that we're going to see a very permanent residual employment impact from the Olympic Games," he said.

"I'm very optimistic that we're going to see a very permanent residual employment impact from the Olympic Games." Iain Black

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Words of wisdom

"Today's economy proves that business planning should be an ongoing process," says Kyle McNamara, managing director of small business at Scotiabank. "You shouldn't just write a plan and let it collect dust. It should guide you through good times and bad." NEWS CANADA

Get paid while learning

DANIEL TAM
for Metro Vancouver

For some people in the trades industry, getting paid while learning on the job is essential in paying the bills.

It is what drew Jon Babin, 22, to apply to the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) for apprenticeship training.

"I need the money to pay for rent, food, car payments, tools for work, clothes for work," said Babin, who is nearing completion in the carpentry program. "I live on my own and I'm not a student, so I can't get a student loan."

For the past two years, he has been putting the skills he learned from school into use through working for a restoration company in the Lower Mainland.

Babin went through one of BCIT's Foundation programs, which required him to learn about carpentry on campus before being working on any sites.

"I learned how to make stairs and roofs and how to measure the volume of concrete,"said Babin. "I didn't know anything about carpentry before going to school."

Schooling has helped Babin to expand his skills as a carpenter, as well as his bank account.

"With some of the bigger companies, you get a raise after every year of schooling, so it does help," said Babin.

The foundation program is intended for people who are interested in trades but have no connections to contractors.

"A lot of them have no experience whatsoever, they might not know what a wrench is," said Rod Goy, associate dean at the School of Construction and Environment at BCIT. "We take them through the whole skillset of learning how to do their craft safely so they're not going to get schooled on a job site to go get a bucket of something that doesn't exist.

"We have a very close relationship with industry," said Goy. "(Students) come in, they meet some industry people, they get some contacts and then finish the classes and go out and try to get a job."

There are two ways to get into the trades industry: Through the foundation programs, or through apprenticeship training.

The latter requires current employers to register workers through the Industry Training Authority so that they can receive their trade worker ID in order to go to school.

Apprenticeship programs generally take three to four years to complete.

BCIT instructor Clarence Burlock, left, teaches students in the electrical apprenticeship program.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL TAM/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Jon Babin puts the skills he learned into practice.

Four categories for trades

There are four categories for trades offered at Lower Mainland institutions:

- **Transportation:** Heavy Duty mechanic, automotive technician, etc.
- **Construction:** Carpentry, plumbing, etc.
- **Electrical:** Industrial Instrumentation
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Qualified nurses in demand

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
for Metro Vancouver

When it comes to choosing a career in Greater Vancouver these days, more and more students are choosing the field of health care.

As technology advances, options in health care are becoming more diverse, and in most cases, they are in high demand.

"We saw increases essentially across the board for all of our health sciences programs," says Janine Alliston, manager of student recruitment at BCIT. "Anywhere from a 5-per-cent increase in one program to a 63-per-cent increase in another."

The most popular programs at BCIT include environmental Health (which saw the largest increase in applications), ultrasound technician, medical radiography (formerly X-Ray technician), nuclear medicine and the always popular nursing.

In fact, Alliston says BCIT has had to alter its nursing program to keep up with the demand.

"Because qualified nurses are in such high demand, our nursing program has actually been condensed into a three-year program and we've raised the capacity so we can graduate more nurses each year," she says.

Nursing is also quite popular for students at Langara College. According to communications officer Colene Chow, Langara currently has 510 students enrolled in its nursing program, with an additional 167 on a waiting list.

So why are programs and courses in health care so popular these days? According to Alliston, the majority of the population is aging and, as this continues to happen, there will always be a demand for skilled workers in every facet of the health-care industry.

High demand is not the only reason numbers are up, however; Alliston believes there are other contributing factors.

"Health care is a field that is a very desirable because it allows people to work in a caring profession and make a significant difference in other people's lives, and that's quite rewarding," she says.

"The government is obviously committed to healthcare funding, which is another positive indicator for people looking for rewarding and stable careers."

Both BCIT and Langara College have nursing programs.

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Taking over
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Lifelong learning key to success

LINA TOYODA
for Metro Vancouver

Professional development is a continuing practice of lifelong learning. Updating skills, specialization, and retraining are all part of professional development, which is a requirement for some professionals, and a choice for others.

"Professional development is important to B.C.'s competitiveness, both in the short- and long-term," said Ian Lagasse, national account director for the Pacific region at Canadian Management Centre.

"Clearly, the benefits associated with a highly skilled workplace are felt, among other things, in higher productivity and higher levels of employee engagement."

Sally Halliday, managing director of program outreach and counselling services at the UBC Life & Career Centre in downtown Vancouver, says she sees a lot of people who are going through a career change or thinking about a change.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

A photo of a professional development workshop from the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University.

She says many people transitioning into leadership roles need new skills to manage people and improve communication. "A workshop called How to Deal with Difficult People is a popular one," she laughs.

Workshops like Building a Resilient Career have been a popular choice over the summer. People signing up for professional development programs during summer holidays are a true sign of the times, Halliday says.

During the recession, Halliday says she's noticed something unexpected — people are still thinking of leaving their jobs. It's a risk, but a recession seems to be a catalyst to make a change, she says. "People really think about what matters most to them."

Halliday says that an economic downturn is actually a good time to retrain and upgrade your skills, to position yourself for when things turn around.

"True job security comes from knowing who you are and what you have to offer," she said. "And be flexible."

Teachers have regularly taken part in professional development and currently in B.C., they get five days throughout the school year to update their skills.

"As research and knowledge changes, what are the best practices and how do we keep integrating these practices?" says Kanwal Neel, associate director of professional programs of the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University.

Neel says a couple of trends he has seen are in the areas of literacy, numeracy, technology and social responsibility.

"How to infuse new technology and acknowledging diversity of people through special education training are common interests for educators," said Neel.

Starting this year, lawyers in B.C. are the first in Canada to have a professional development requirement and must put in 12 hours each year.

"As in other professions like doctors and nurses, there are always changes, said Alan Treleaven, director of education and practice of the Law Society of British Columbia. "For lawyers, these are changes in the law and how it is practised, and the use of new technology."

As for popular courses for lawyers, Treleavan says they are often those that are "the most suited to the law that they practice."

Professional ethics is also a popular area for professional development, he says, because lawyers often have to deal with difficult ethical decisions.

"In today's rapidly changing business environment, lifelong learning is a must!" says Lagasse.

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Saunders focuses on colour

British designer Jonathan Saunders swapped his signature geometric prints and concentrated on colour this season at London Fashion Week. Most of the clothes were ready to wear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Style

The in crowd

The London Fashion Week Burberry crowd included Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow (left), Harry Potter star Emma Watson (far left), former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, American Vogue editor Anna Wintour, Slumdog Millionaire stars Dev Patel and Freida Pinto and Business Secretary Peter Mandelson, a prominent member of the British government known for his snappy dress. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A triumphant return

Beige and pales dominated London Fashion Week's Burberry show

London's Burberry runway show had just enough plaid to keep traditionalists happy.

Burberry and its creative director Christopher Bailey made a triumphant return to London this week, winning over a star-studded audience at the glitziest event of the capital's fashion week.

Bailey, who has helped transform the once staid brand into a fashion powerhouse, showed a series of short dresses, including many with a trench coat theme familiar to longtime fans of Burberry.

There was just enough of the traditional Burberry plaid to keep traditionalists happy, while younger fans were drawn to the soft, sexy lines of the dresses, most of them in beige (long associated with Burberry) and pale greens and yellows.

"I thought it was beautiful, and very poetic," said Hilary Alexander, fashion director of The Daily Telegraph newspaper. "The heritage was there, but it was like a ballet, a dance."

Bailey used sequins and bright metallic silver fabric to set off some of his jackets and tops, adding glitter to the look, and also used padded shoulders for emphasis on several of the combination trench-dresses that were an important theme of the show.

Belts were used for shape, and the models looked extremely feminine, their long flowing hair and natural makeup bucking a trend toward androgyny seen in other shows this week.

"I thought it was beautiful, and very poetic... The heritage was there, but it was like a ballet, a dance."
Hilary Alexander, The Daily Telegraph newspaper

The Burberry show was one of the largest and most eagerly anticipated of London Fashion week, and the crowd arrived early to sip champagne or elderflower coolers on the steps of the Chelsea College of Art and Design near the River Thames. Harold Tillman, chairman of the British Fashion Council, said the week has been a tremendous success, with large crowds filling many shows. He said the trend toward prints had been noticeable.

"There have been so many good, good shows," he said. "There are great designers, showing freshness, fearlessness. It's so exciting, it really is."

Burberry chief executive office Angela Ahrendt said before the show began that it was an honour to be back on the catwalks in London, where the company has long been based.

"It's a phenomenal honour," she said, gesturing to the gathered crowd. "We are a British brand. For Christopher Bailey, who's British, he can finally come home and share his talent with the rest of the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Younger Burberry fans were drawn to the spring/summer 2010's sexy dresses in beige and pale greens and yellows. The familiar trench coat theme (left) was also prominent.

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THE REBEL JACKET

ADVICE This season, there are two style options: worn-in vintage, for a biker or rough-edged look, or sleek urban in polished, glossy leather. When buying a leather jacket, make sure that it's properly tailored for a good fit and that the seams don't pucker or pull.

HOW TO WEAR IT Versatile and easy. Pair it with slim pants and chunky jewellery for day or with a soft, romantic dress and platform booties for night.

CURVY

Leather jacket, Cassis ($399, cassis.com)

Leather jacket, Danier ($299, danier.com)

PETITE

SLIM

Leather jacket, Roots ($458, canada-roots.ca)

TALL

Faux-leather jacket, Aldo Accessories ($98, aldoaccessories.com)

BOYISH

Leather jacket, Bedo ($298, bedo.ca)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

The rising star

Haider Ackerman is fashion's next bold-faced name

By MEREDITH ERICKSON
Contributing Writer

Designer Haider Ackerman

Haider Ackermann pulls up a chair in the garden café of the Palais Royal in Paris and orders an espresso, apologizing profusely for being eight minutes late. With his tousled black curls, pink T-shirt and polka-dot scarf, he is both strikingly stylish and immediately likeable, a calming presence in the whirlwind of high fashion- which is precisely where Ackermann now finds himself. His fall 2009 show was a breakout performance: Exquisitely cut leather jackets paired with draped silk gowns captured the season's modern rock 'n' roll vibe. **Why do you think your fall collection was such a success?** "I don't know I actually preferred the winter before [fall 2008]. This fall, there was a 'soldier' feeling with the suits, but there was also beautiful embroidery from my trip to India. I love to work with contradiction, and perhaps that hit a nerve this time." **How do you start each collection?** "I always start with music. For fall, it was Leonard Cohen, which translated into I'm Your Man being played on the runway." **Where do you go for inspiration?** "The street in the middle of the night. I could walk endlessly. I like the feeling of being lost. I also love India and Morocco."

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The new male erogenous zone

Men be prepared to throw out those socks

For gentlemen seeking a quick and free fashion makeover this fall, follow these simple instructions.

Slip off shoes; remove socks; tuck them into briefcase or lunch box; roll pant hem up two to four inches. Put shoes back on.

The simple act of getting dressed up in trim slacks with classic footwear — without socks — is, in the saturnine world of men's fashion, a big deal.

Certainly we've seen the "no socks" trend before – back in the '70s and usually on overly tanned Hamptons-style prepsters, who wore their boat shoes or stylized loafers without socks.

It's different this time as the new male erogenous zone is accentuated by tailored trousers and traditional footwear — clunky brogues, function-first desert boots or old- school penny loafers.

It's all part of a larger movement in men's fashion that hipsters have labelled "trad" — short for traditional, but accentuating the "rad" element as well.

The trend can be connected to any of the "natty" related styles that are influencing men's fashion today. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lacoste was one of several menswear designers big on the sockless trend at the spring 2010 collections in New York.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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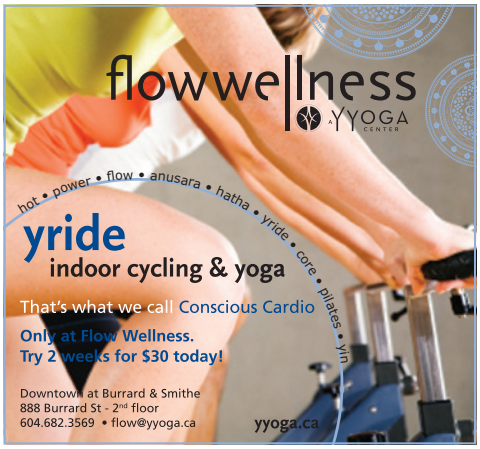
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K-Fed getting fit
Though he plans to chronicle his weight loss on his own reality TV show, overly plump Kevin Federline will be appearing on the next season of VH1's Celebrity Fit Club. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Prinze Charlotte
Freddie Prinze Jr. and Sarah Michelle Gellar welcomed a baby girl, their first child, according to People. Charlotte Grace Prinze was born Saturday in Los Angeles.
METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Queen crafts a new Persona

Queen Latifah

Album: Persona
Label: Flavor Unit
Rating: 🌐🌐

IN A PERFECT world, Queen Latifah doing a new hip-hop album would be a welcome return to form. But on her latest effort, the Oscar-nominated CoverGirl seems obligated to keep up her level of mass appeal. On first song The Light, the Queen manages to strike a balance between her pop celebrity and hardcore MC roots with a humble but inspirational track about how she made it. But after a cameo from the reliably goofy Missy Elliot, the mostly Cool & Dre-produced Persona backslides into an album of shmaltzy Jordin Sparks-inspired background music.

Jason Richards/for Metro Canada

Pearl Jam

Album: Backspacer
Label: Monkeywrench Records/ Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐🌐

IF SOMEONE SAID 15 years ago that Pearl Jam would one day be a power pop band, they would have been laughed out of the room. But that's exactly what these grunge legends have become. No, they're not the next Fall Out Boy, but these are some of the most upbeat pop tunes the group has ever written. And that's not a bad thing. The tracks are catchy and succinct — the rollicking Supersonic clocks in at under three minutes — but they still maintain that classic PJ feel. It's a real testament to their talent that the band can still be this good nearly two decades after Ten.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

GETTY IMAGES

Persona is the seventh album by Queen Latifah.

Three Days Grace

Album: Life Starts Now
Label: RCA/Sony
Rating: 🌐🌐

THIS ALBUM BY is a microcosm of everything that is wrong with mainstream radio rock. Slick production seems to bleed every bit of life out of songs that had little to begin with. Meaningless guitar solos fail to fill the void left by plodding chord progressions. Adam Gontier's forced and overwrought vocals do little to add believability to the contrived and cliched lyrics. "Living in a shell with no soul," Gontier pines on the power ballad World So Cold. Gontier's own words are an apt description for the kind of lifeless tracks Three Days Grace has released after a lengthy absence from the charts. Sticking to the same tired formula, the Toronto-based band delivers music that fits the play-it-safe needs of rock radio programmers who will undoubtedly flood the airwaves with this album over the next few months.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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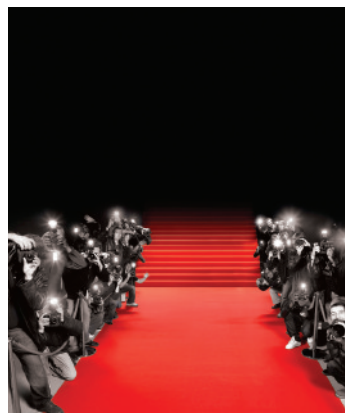

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Ebay Emmy

Estelle Getty's prized 1988 Emmy has surfaced on Ebay a year after her death. The trophy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for The Golden Girls was put up for sale by a seller specializing in fine art. POPEATER.COM

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Art isn't imitating life: Duchovny

Sex storylines in TV show, reality are an 'unfortunate coincidence'

Hank Moody, the hero of Showtime's comedy Californication, is a roguish struggling novelist who says whatever is on his mind and feels a tug from every member of the opposite sex.

He might get into less trouble if he kept his lip buttoned and his fly zipped. But that wouldn't be Hank, nor would it be Californication, which mines laughs (and, occasionally, gasps) from Hank's erotic misadventures, and those of his sexed-up fellow travellers.

Starring David Duchovny, Californication begins its third season this Monday on Movie Central and The Movie Network with Hank landing a much-needed teaching job at a local college. This is thanks to a professor who is the sexy mother of a friend of Hank's teenage daughter Becca (Madeleine Martin).

Here in academia, Hank is primed to seduce his new colleague (whose husband, the dean of the college, is his boss), while a graduate assistant and a sassy coed are also on Hank's radar.

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Duchovny

"I call it adult comedy," says Duchovny, "but not in the Triple-X sense. It's adult comedy because the characters are acting foolish but not acting like children."

The 49-year-old actor is meeting a reporter at a luncheonette on the Upper East Side, where he lives with actress Tea Leoni, his wife of a dozen years, and their two children.

In mid-sentence, he spies a hand-lettered sign above the vintage soda fountain. "They have banana splits!" he says. "I got to tell the kids about that."

These days, Duchovny's family is together and stronger than ever, he's happy to report. "Things are great," he sums up, sharing details from a cross-country RV trip they made this summer. Highlights: Grand Canyon, a ball game in St. Louis and a visit with an Amish family in Ohio.

"(The) two have nothing to do with one another — my personal life and the show. No more than aliens had anything to do with my time on the X Files."
David Duchovny

But a year ago, things weren't so bright. In August 2008, Duchovny announced he was entering rehab for sex addiction. Meanwhile, his marriage was in jeopardy.

Making things worse, this news, undermined Duchovny's accomplishments on Californication. It suggested that his role as Hank hit too close to home, that he wasn't play-acting so much as just playing himself.

With no sign of defensiveness, Duchovny makes clear he regards the challenges he faced last year as a private matter. But he's candid in acknowledging "an unfortunate coincidence," at least appearance-wise, between his life and his art.

"Any subject matter like that, by its very nature, is going to get trivialized," he says. "When you've got a hammer, everything looks like a nail. That's how it looks to people who are discussing it. But the two have nothing to do with one another — my personal life and the show. No more than aliens had anything to do with my time on The X-Files."

Any public confusion that arose between Hank's exploits and the issues for which Duchovny sought help "hurts on both levels," he says. "It belittles the life and it belittles the work, at the same time.

"As a father and a husband, I would have preferred not to have exposed (my family) to any of that kind of thing. To me, that's what's most regrettable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/24/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Pedal Power (N) (CC)		Doc Zone Battle for the Arctic.		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy "Good Mourning; Goodbye" (CC)				CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Supernatural (N) (CC)		Perspectives	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		The Office (N)	SNL Update	90210 (N) (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	FlashForward (CC)		Fringe (N) (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	Community	Community (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) The Mentalist (CC)		KIRO News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	SNL Update	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	Community (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Old Christine	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Love It-List It
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (CC)		Grey's Anatomy "Good Mourning; Goodbye" (CC)				KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The 4th Floor ★★ (1999) Artie Lange, Juliette Lewis.				The Office	The Office	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Yellowstone	Families Stand Together		PBS Special Report on Health Care Reform		Learning		Frost Nixon
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		Fringe (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Health Care	Michigan	Red Green	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	This Old Hse.
	296	654	54 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (N) (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at San Francisco Giants. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Preseason Hockey		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		2009 World Series of Poker		2009 World Series of Poker		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	College Football: Miss. at S.C.		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Game Cap	Toronto-Today	MLS Weekly	Toronto	Gol TV News	Premier	Gol TV News	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz (N)	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked (N)	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of Hill	Futurama: Bender's Game (2008) Premiere.		
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Zigby	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Frontiers of Construction		Mediterranean	Mediterranean	Adventures in Architecture		What Remains ★★ (2005, Documentary) (CC)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Karaoke Star "Ottawa"		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	24 MM	Love Court	Instant Star	One Tree Hill (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada			Dance	Spotlight
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	Handyman Superstar		House
	615	520	31 A&E	The First 48 (CC)		Crime 360 "At Death's Door"		The First 48 Past cases.		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) TNA Wrestling (N)		The Ultimate Fighter		MANswers	GameTrailers	MANswers	MANswers	Ways to Die
	521	560	34 TLC	LA Ink "LA Pink" (N) (CC)		Police Women of Broward		LA Ink "LA Pink" (CC)		Police Women of Broward		LA Ink (CC)
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years		Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	(6:00) Prom Wars (2008)		Law & Order (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Just Looking ★★ (1999) Ryan Merriman.		
	601	562	41 SLC	X-Weighted "Heather" (CC)		ET Canada	What	Biggest Loser Australia (CC)		Average Joe: Hawaii (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters YouTube myths.		Daily Planet (CC)		Bear Feeding Frenzy		Pig Bomb		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ancient Discoveries (CC)		Underworld Histories (CC)		Life After People (N) (CC)		Blow Down
	627	528	45 SPC	Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life			Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Fury"	
	294	650	47 TBS	Harold & Kumar Go		(7:55) Seinfeld	(:25) Seinfeld	Sex and-City		(:25) Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle ★★		Americn 2
	619	525	48 TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Stunt Stars (CC)		ET Canada	TV Made	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	52 FN	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family	Family	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Perfection	Perfection	Ace of Cakes
	-	-	53 AMC	(5:00) Top Gun	Commando ★★ (1985, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger. (CC)			The Delta Force ★★ (1986) Chuck Norris, Lee Marvin. (CC)				
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Summer House (2008)		Last Chance Harvey ★★ (2008) (CC)		(:35) Becoming Jane ★★ (2007) Anne Hathaway. (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	Nitro Circus	Pranked (N)	MTV Live	After	Fantasy Fact.	Beatdown	Nitro Circus	Pranked	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Robin Hood ★★ (1991) Patrick Bergin.			Recreat. Eden	Robin Hood: Men in Tights ★★ (1993) Cary Elwes. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Banquet	Kingdom-Wind	Vancouver	Shaktimaan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Connections	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

Grey's Anatomy
Apart from the title — "Good Mourning; Goodbye" — little confirmed information has been released for this two-hour, sixth-season premiere episode, although Izzie (Emmy winner Katherine Heigl), who underwent risky surgery at the end of last season, is back, as are the other mainstays apart from George (T.R. Knight) — dead, you know. Jessica Capshaw is promoted to series regular as Arizona, Callie's (Sara Ramirez) romantic interest. 9 PM on CTV ABC

FlashForward
What's the opposite of deja vu? In this high-concept new drama series that clearly is bidding to become the next "Lost," every person on Earth suffers a blackout lasting two minutes and 17 seconds, during which they get a vivid glimpse of themselves six months in the future. And boy, the news really isn't good for some of them. Joseph Fiennes ("Shakespeare in Love") heads a cast that also includes Dominic Monaghan and Sonya Walger of — hey! — "Lost." 8 PM on ABC, VI

Kiss, LL Cool J on hall of fame shortlist

MUSIC Kiss, LL Cool J and the Red Hot Chili Peppers could be among next years's inductees at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

They're on a list of 12 acts vying for the five spots in the class of 2010. Other first-time nominees include Genesis, Jimmy Cliff, The Hollies and songwriter Laura Nyro. Some names have been on the ballot before: Donna Summer, Darlene Love, ABBA, the Chantels, and the Stooges. Inductees will be announced in December.

Hamilton to skate on TV in wake of cancer battle

TELEVISION Scott Hamilton will skate on TV for the first time since battling a brain tumour, joining fellow Olympian and cancer survivor Dorothy Hamill for a special intended to inspire viewers to triumph over illness. Kaleidoscope airs Nov. 26 on Fox. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Who wants a donut?
To celebrate their 30th anniversary, Lee's Donuts, located in the Granville Island Public Market, will be selling their Plain Cake Donuts at the 1979 price of 30-cents each through tomorrow. Race you... METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

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anya.levykh@gmail.com

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Signature Drink:
Sex on the Beach
Signature Dish:
Sweet Carrot & Brie Perogies
Rating: ●●●●½
Dinner & drinks for 2: $100

Some good habits are easy to form.

I had planned to visit this spot almost a year ago, just after Chef Tina Fineza (Flying Tiger) had worked her consulting magic on the menu, and renos had been completed. But then a massive fire gutted the interior over the Christmas season and the doors closed.

A few weeks ago, they opened again, with a stunning romper room that hints at '70s Canadiana and has made shag sexy again. It's comfortable, chic and dim enough that Main Street swanksters, Yaletown ex-pats and Kits escapees can all feel comfortable together.

On the web

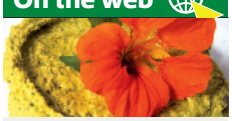
- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

The food is equally comfort-based. Brie and sweet carrot perogies ($11) with a chived sour cream and caramelized onions is a starter that could almost double as a savoury dessert, it's that good.

Salt cod cakes over a wild rice and sunchoke pancake ($12) is one of the coolest flavour combos I have tried in a good while, while pork croquettes with braised fennel ($11) actually taste like pork — local, grain-fed pork. In fact, most of the proteins are local, sustainable, organic or a combination of all three. It's wonderful instance of quality of cookery indeed living up to the quality of the ingredients. And that's a habit worth keeping.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
Sweet carrot and brie perogies ($11).

On the web



Global Peasant:
- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog. Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for this Girlie Hummus.

Finca Flichman, part 2

Last week, I reviewed this Mendoza winery's Cabernet Sauvignon, this week we move on to Malbec. The 2008 is a deep red quaff of plums and berries, with a slightly oaky aroma of cherries and more plum. Decanting for a solid 20 minutes helps this wine expand in the mouth, and the soft finish helps it pair with braised meats and even meatier seafood, like a maple-glazed salmon. At $11.99 (BCLS), you can even afford to buy two.

Dining out

GO WHOLE HOG AT FUEL
Fuel Restaurant (1944 West 4 Ave.) will offer their annual Whole Hog Dinner on Nov. 25, 26 and 27. Five-course menu is $69; optional wine pairings $39. Dishes include spiced crackling with salsa verde, smoked lard ravioli, slow roasted shoulder and bacon ice cream. Reservations required. Call 604-288-7905.

LA CUISINE DE CHEZ NOUS
For October, Bistro Pastis (2153 West 4 Ave.) is offering a three-course prix fixe menu of classic French comfort food for $37.50. Options include beef bourguignon, terrine de canard, sole Normande, potato and leek soup, caramel apple tart with crème anglaise, and chocolate profiteroles. Call 604-731-5020.

In brief

COOK-OFF WINNER Deacon's Corner Diner has won 1st place at the Gastown Chili & Blues Festival's Annual Chili Cook-off. You can taste it at the diner at 101 Main St.

COOKBOOK Barbara-Jo McIntosh's classic home-grown cookbook, Tin Fish Gourmet, is again available after a long absence. Pick up a copy at Barbara-Jo's Books-to-Cooks (1740 West 2 Ave) while supplies last.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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prestocucina.ca

For advertising opportunities call 604.602.1002.
Urban Eats runs Thursdays in Metro.

This Angel hasn't departed for the heavens yet
Jaclyn Smith wants you to know that she is alive. The Charlie's Angels star took to her Facebook and Twitter to deny reports that she had shot herself in Honduras, People reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Hayden's School of Life

SHE DON'T NEED NO BOOK LEARNIN' Hayden Panettiere has ruled out a college education — insisting she's had her own "learning experience" growing up in Hollywood, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 20-year-old, who plays a college student in the sci-fi TV series Heroes, developed a desire to attend university when she was younger but admits landing the hit show helped change her mind.

Now Panettiere insists pretending to be a student is enough, because she's grown up quickly in Hollywood.

She says, "I always wanted to go to college (but) the show happened to start in a pretty pivotal period, when you have thoughts of going to college. It was just such a success and it is what I love to do.

"I would love to take some classes that I really enjoy, but I think college is a learning experience for yourself as a person and (it's about) being on your own for the first time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bully godmother Amy

OVERPROTECTIVE? Amy Winehouse screamed and spat at a young teenager she believed was bullying her goddaughter, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer reportedly stormed to London's Southgate school on Monday to confront a pupil who had been tormenting 13-year-old Dionne Bromfield.

A source said: "The altercation outside of the North London secondary school quickly turned sour when Amy began hurling abuse at the young accused bully and began spitting at her."

Celebrity gossip blog I'm Not Obsessed added: "Amy's tirade did not stop there, as witnesses say that the 26-year-old then went on to shout at a group of Dionne's fellow students."

A passerby who managed to calm Winehouse down eventually stopped the altercation. The singer then agreed to sign autographs before leaving the school.

Winehouse is preparing to release Bromfield's debut album on her own label Lioness Records.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mischa's not in Kansas anymore...

THE WRONG RED CARPET A confused Mischa Barton headed out to the opera in New York recently but ended up at the nearby premiere for Michael Moore's documentary Capitalism: A Love Story instead.

"Mischa showed up and was asking for tickets. She started walking the red carpet," a source told Page Six. "She took one look around and realized she was in the wrong place."

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Parkers plan second vows

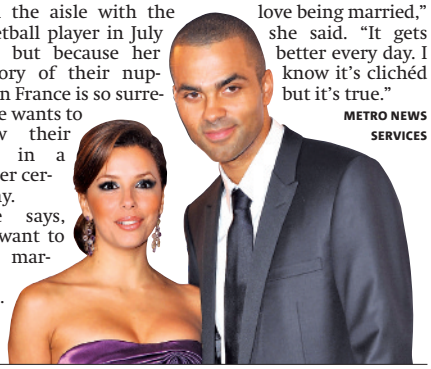
LOST IN LA-LA-LAND Eva Longoria Parker wants to marry husband Tony Parker again because her memory of their wedding is so hazy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress walked down the aisle with the basketball player in July 2007, but because her memory of their nuptials in France is so surreal, she wants to renew their vows in a smaller ceremony.

She says, "We want to get married again. Our wedding went by so fast and, with the frenzy surrounding it, it felt like an out-of-body experience.

"We want to do it again — something a bit more intimate — because we love being married," she said. "It gets better every day. I know it's clichéd but it's true."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Woody's secret skin weapon

REASONS TO GO VEGAN Woody Harrelson is a proud vegan, but it turns out his reasons for taking up the lifestyle weren't purely based on principle.

"I was about 24 years old, and I had tons of acne," he told Maxim magazine. "I met some random girl on a bus who told me to quit dairy and all those symptoms would go away three days later. By God, she was right."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Penelope pregnant?

ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE Penelope Cruz was spotted leaving an OB/GYN office in Madrid with boyfriend Javier Bardem on her arm, further fuelling speculation that she's expecting a child, according to Hollyscoop.

The actress has repeatedly denied the rumours, going so far as to storm out of an interview last week when the topic came up.

"I start getting some presents from friends saying, 'Congratulations, you're pregnant,'" Cruz told USA Today last month. "And I say, 'No, I'm not, so return the presents.' It's amazing."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tyra a secret nudist?

AT PEACE WITH HERSELF Model and talk show host Tyra Banks loves being naked.

"I always feel great when I don't have clothes on," Banks told Larry King. "Unless the lighting is bad in the dressing room."

Banks also insists that while she has enjoyed her talk-show success, she is not trying to be Oprah Winfrey. "If I tried, I would fail," she said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Rob Thomas has trouble with the weather in his home state, Taylor Swift feels just fine about her fashion choices, Jon Favreau celebrates Rosh Hashanah, and Demi Lovato would rather not be awake.

- @ThisIsRobThomas i forgot how oppressively hot florida can get. the humidity goes through your clothes and into your soul.
- @taylorswift13 I'm wearing argyle socks. It's going really well, I think I'll do it again sometime.
- @Jon_Favreau Happy New Year! Let's make 5770 count!
- @ddlovato It's raining, it's pouring, I wish I was snoring.....

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Friday Sunny 17° / 12°
Saturday Sunny 16° / 10°
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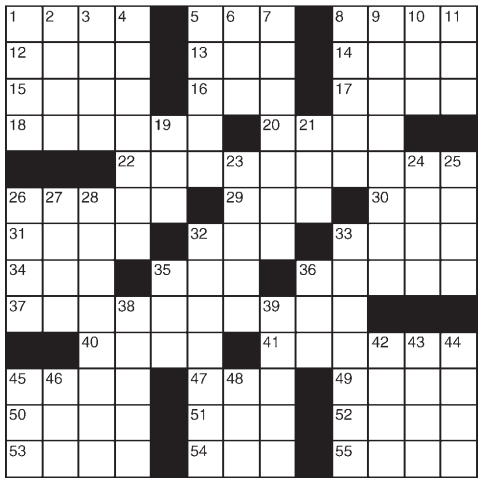
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Ballot dangler
5 Annoy
8 Puerto —
12 Jeans maker Strauss
13 French pronoun
14 Low pH
15 Cupid's alias
16 Favourite
17 Conked out
18 Melted-cheese dish
20 Talon
22 Chic, and then some
26 Assume for argument's sake
29 Layer
30 Slight amount
31 Author Turgenev
32 Bit of wordplay
33 Lascivious
34 Mai —
35 Branch
36 Briskly self-assured
37 "My fondest wishes"
40 Pulsate
41 Ceremony
45 Reed instrument
47 Menagerie
49 Capri, e.g.
50 Bank transaction
51 Conclusion
52 Trawler gear
53 They get connected
54 Shelter
55 Mardi —

DOWN

1 Staff leader
2 Medal earner
3 Shakespeare's river
4 Scorn
5 Urge onward
6 Shad product
7 Setting for Rachael Ray
8 Speeder spotter
9 It flows through the veins of the emotionless
10 Spy-novel org.
11 Peculiar
19 Last (Abbr.)
21 Dawson of football
23 Pollex
24 Stare stupidly
25 Vortex
26 Hummus holder
27 Elliptical
28 Regatta entry
32 Ballpark snack
33 Allowing
35 "Caught ya!"
36 Omega preceder
38 Adolescents
39 Wear away
42 Addict
43 Can. prov.
44 Minus
45 Antiquated
46 Greet the villain
48 Inseparable

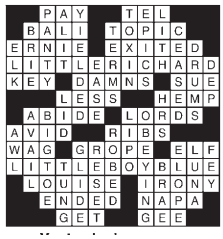
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	2		9	7	5		4	
9								5
		7				3		
4	1		6		7		3	2
				5				
7	9		3		4		8	1
		3				1		
8								3
	6		4	3	8		5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



5	3	4	8	2	1	9	6	7
6	1	7	5	9	4	3	8	2
2	8	9	7	6	3	5	4	1
3	7	2	4	8	6	1	9	5
8	9	1	2	7	5	6	3	4
4	6	5	1	3	9	7	2	8
7	2	6	3	5	8	4	1	9
1	5	3	9	4	2	8	7	6
9	4	8	6	1	7	2	5	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

GENEVIEVE WESTROPE

Rosemary Oven Roasted Potato Chips

Submitted by Irene Leung, Port Dover, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

2 medium sized potatoes
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp coarse salt
2 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves, roughly chopped
Pepper to taste

METHOD:

1. Wash potatoes and chop the rosemary.
2. Slice the potatoes into thin rounds using a mandolin (if one isn't available, use a vegetable peeler).
3. In a large bowl, mix the oil, rosemary leaves, salt and pepper and toss the potato slices until coated.
4. On 2 baking sheets lined with aluminum foil for easy clean up, spread the potatoes in one layer and bake in a preheated oven at 350 F for about 5 minutes.
6. Flip the potatoes onto the other side, switch the position of the baking sheets on the oven shelves and bake for another 5 minutes.
5. Check to see if the potatoes have browned on both sides. Then repeat the turning-potatoes-and-alternating-the-sheets step, and bake for another 5 minutes or so until potatoes are golden brown and somewhat crispy on the outside.
6. Serve as a snack, or on the side with a hamburger or another main meat dish.

SERVES 2
PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

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20MinuteSupperClub.com helps you get dinner ready in a snap. Visit 20minutesupperclub.com/metro and be entered to win a $50 President's Choice gift certificate! Weekly winners until the end of October.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Everyday chores may be a pain but Mars will come to your rescue today. Whatever challenges you're called on to face, you will handle them all with ease.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Creatively and romantically this is one of the best times of the year, but it could be better still if you stopped thinking of everyone as a potential rival.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Life is always fun for those born under the sign of the twins, and even more so now. So don't waste time worrying; your only duty is to be happy.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Both at home and at work you are more likely to learn things to your advantage if you use your mouth less and your ears more.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your taste for luxury is legendary, but you will cut back on the good life today as you look around for ways to boost your income.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Looking back a few weeks from now you'll be astonished how much time you wasted on trivial things. Get your act together, and start moving forward.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
No matter what mishaps and misunderstandings there may be in other areas of your life, relationships are going rather well at the moment.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You don't have to be a saint but you do have to realize that no matter what your problems may be most people would happily trade places with you.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
The sun in the friendship area of your chart makes it easier to reach goals that depend on others. Being a team player will bring many benefits.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be pleasant to people today. The more you smile and act in a non-threatening manner the more likely it is that important people will look on you kindly.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will make quick work of whatever challenges crop up today — then you can turn your attention to more enjoyable things.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
As Mercury is still moving retrograde you are advised not to trust what you are told by people who may, or may not, have an agenda of some kind.

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
Visit metronews.ca to watch
metrotube of the day

This day in history

SEPT. 24, 1950: Forest fires black out the sun over portions of Canada and New England. A blue moon (in the astronomical sense) is seen as far away as Europe.
SEPT. 24, 1957: U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower sends 101st Airborne Division troops to Little Rock, Ark., to enforce desegregation.
SEPT. 24, 1990: Periodic Great White Spot is observed on Saturn.
SEPT. 24, 1994: National League for Democracy is formed by Aung San Suu Kyi and various others to help fight against dictatorship in Myanmar.

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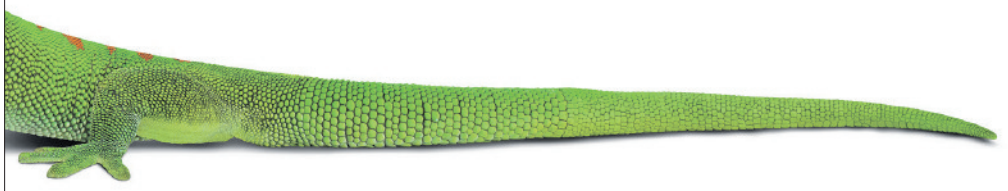

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